(a) whether Government is aware that there are more than 16000 applications pending with credit rating agencies like CRISIL, CARE, FITCH and Dunand Bradstreet till September, 2009; and

(b) if so, the steps, Government is taking to clear this waitlist urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No Sir, under "Performance and Credit Rating Scheme" of the Ministry, there were only 1374 applications pending with different rating agencies, as on 30th September, 2009.

(b) The rating agencies are required to complete the exercise of evaluation and award of rating within one month from the date of receipt of all information from the applicant micro & small enterprises.

Further, the Government subsidy (75% of the rating fee, subject to maximum of Rs. 40,000/-) under the scheme is released to the Rating agency only after award of rating and submission of the rating report.

Setting up of a task force to promote MSMEs

3348. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a high level task force for micro, small and medium enterprises as they are demanding adequate financing and other incentives to tide over economic slowdown;

(b) whether to imbattle financial concerns, MSMEs representatives have met PM divulging details;

(c) if so, whether after meeting, PM has announced for setting up a task force to look into the problems and demands of the sector;

(d) if so, by when task force would give its report; and

(e) by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Task Force has held a series of meetings to deliberate on the issues/problems of the MSME sector with all the stakeholders and is likely to submit its Report shortly.

Collaboration of KVIC with big industrial houses

3349. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC proposes to collaborate with the big industrial houses active in the organized retail market to strengthen the rural area economically and financially;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the industrial houses selected so far for the purpose; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selection of these industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Raising of price of sliver cotton by KVIC

3350. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the problems facing the Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) the reasons why Khadi and Village Industries Commission has raised the price of cotton sliver supplied to the khadi production centres from their sliver plants; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to allow subsidy for the cotton used by Khadi sector and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Some of the challenges in the Khadi and village industries are ensuring availability of quality raw materials, adequate credit and professional expertise in marketing. There are six Central Sliver Plants managed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory body under the administrative control of this Ministry. KVIC has constituted an Advisory Committee for each Central Sliver Plant (CSP) for reviewing various issues like requirement of working capital, quality of sliver/roving, pricing of sliver/roving, sales promotion, etc. The main reason for increase in price of cotton slivers from these CSPs is the escalation in prices of raw material. The costing of sliver / roving is worked out on 'no profit no loss' basis after taking into account the cost of raw material, processing costs, consumption of power, salary and wages of the staff and workers etc. As the price of the sliver /roving is calculated on 'no profit no loss' basis at present, there is no plan for reducing the price of cotton sliver.

(c) No, Sir.

Small and medium enterprises in Tamil Nadu

3351. S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of micro, small and medium enterprises in the State of Tamil Nadu;